

## “A Throne of Grace”

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A Throne of Grace (Pt. 1)

August 12, 2018

INTRO... Paper Airplanes and Fallen World Friction

Last Week’s Message—Hannah’s Prayer, God’s Means in Dark Times

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

...Ingredients that need our understanding...

- **'confidence'** ...there is an attitude in this verse
- **'let us draw near'** ...there is action on our behalf in this verse
- **'throne of grace'** ...there is a throne in this verse
- **'receiving mercy and finding grace'** ...there is an acquiring/an encountering in this verse
- **'help'** ...there is aid/rescue/intervention/help in this verse
- **'time of need'** ...there are real life moments in this verse

### **Made for Need**

- **What is 'need'?** ...it is that moment or those seasons or those encounters where what we bring to the table isn't sufficient for that setting or situation!

**...What RESPONSE Does 'Need' Engender in You?**

- **Human Ingenuity - Need as the 'mother of invention'...**
- **Human Emotion ...need is also a “menacing creature”** ...Need feels threatening. Need makes us feel vulnerable. Need installs a question mark over our future and over the future of people we love and who are depending on us.

- Need is a companion in all categories of life: physical needs  
...emotional needs ...spiritual needs ...relational needs ...financial &  
resource needs ...life-stage needs

*At any and every moment in our lives we are aware of our "Need"!  
...What do you do when you 'smell need' in the air of your life?*

*...A Simple Insight in a Raging Machine— "Creatures are  
Created to NEED Their Creator" ...We are supposed to be  
living a life that Often & Continuously feels like it is vulnerable, it  
is beyond us, that we are insufficient, that something beyond us is  
necessary in our seasons and settings of life!*

*Heb 4:16 >>> Time of Need Should Produce Movement in us to a  
"Throne of Grace"*

## **A Throne of Grace**

*...Did you know there was such a thing?*

...When We Pray... We are approaching and engaging: A THRONE ...of GRACE

### **A THRONE**

**What is a Throne?** ... Throne (Oxford) = a ceremonial chair for a sovereign; synonyms:  
sovereign power, sovereignty, rule, dominion,  
authority

...Commentary from Nebuchadnezzar (a man who thought he understood  
something about thrones—

**Daniel 4:28-31** All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup> At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, <sup>30</sup> and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” <sup>31</sup> While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,

**Daniel 4:34-35** At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; <sup>35</sup> all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

...This Throne has “everlasting dominion” ...it rules “from generation to generation” ...it accomplishes “his will in heaven and on earth” ...  
“none can stay his hand”

**Ecclesiastes 5:1-2** Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. <sup>2</sup> Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

**Job 23:3-4** Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! <sup>4</sup> I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.

*“It appears that Job’s end, in desiring the presence of God, was that he might pray to him. He had prayed, but he wanted to pray as in God’s presence. He desired to plead as before one whom he knew would hear and help him. ... Job teaches us how he meant to plead and intercede with God. He does, as it were, reveal the secrets of his closet, and unveils the art of prayer. We are here admitted into the guild of suppliants; we are shown the art and mystery of pleading; we have here taught to us the blessed handicraft and science of prayer...”*

*There is a vulgar notion that prayer is a very easy thing, a kind of common business that may be done anyhow, without care or effort. ... [the ancient saints] appear to have*

*thought a great deal more seriously of prayer than many do now-a-days. It seems to have been a mighty business with them, a long-practised exercise, in which some of them attained great eminence, and were thereby singularly blest. They reaped great harvests in the field of prayer, and found the mercy seat to be a mine of untold treasures.*

*The ancient saints were wont, with Job, to order their cause before God; that is to say, as a petitioner coming into Court does not come there without thought to state his case on the spur of the moment, but enters into the audience chamber with his suit well prepared, having moreover learned how he ought to behave himself in the presence of the great One to whom he is appealing. It is well to approach the seat of the King of kings as much as possible with pre-meditation and preparation, knowing what we are about, where we are standing, and what it is which we desire to obtain. ...God forbid that our prayer should be a mere leaping out of one's bed and kneeling down, and saying anything that comes first to hand; on the contrary, may we wait upon the Lord with holy fear and sacred awe." Charles Spurgeon, "Order and Argument in Prayer"*

**Exodus 3:5** Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

**"Holy"** ...set apart! The Throne of Grace is a Special Place—Set Apart!

*"if it be a throne, it ought to be approached with enlarged expectations. Well doth our hymn put it: "Thou art coming to a king: Large petitions with thee bring."*

*...when we pray, we are standing in the palace, on the glittering floor of the great King's own reception room, and thus we are placed upon a vantage ground. In prayer we stand where angels bow with veiled faces; there, even there, the cherubim and seraphim adore, before that selfsame throne to which our prayers ascend. And shall we come there with stunted requests, and narrow and contracted faith? ... Take heed of imagining that God's thoughts are as thy thoughts, and his ways as thy ways. Do not bring before God stunted petitions and narrow desires, and say, "Lord, do according to these," but, remember, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are his ways above your ways, and his thoughts above your thoughts, and ask, therefore, after a God-like sort, ask for great things, for you are before the throne of grace, for then he would do for us exceeding abundantly above what we ask or even think." Charles Spurgeon, "The Throne of Grace"*

**Of GRACE**

...it is a Throne—OF GRACE ...**What does that even mean? What does that 'descriptive' bring into your mind?**

? – **Is it a "Nice" throne?**

? – **Is it a 'Universal throne'?**

*"As prayer will not be truly prayer without the Spirit of God, so it will not be prevailing prayer without the Son of God. He, the Great High Priest, must go within the veil for us; nay, through his crucified person the veil must be entirely taken away; for, until then, we are shut out from the living God. The man who, despite the teaching of Scripture, tries to pray without a Saviour insults the Deity; and he who imagines that his own natural desires, coming up before God, unsprinkled with the precious blood, will be an acceptable sacrifice before God, makes a mistake; he has not brought an offering that God can accept, any more than if he had struck off a dog's neck, or offered an unclean sacrifice. Wrought in us by the Spirit, presented for us by the Christ of God, prayer becomes power before the Most High, but not else." Charles Spurgeon, "The Throne of Grace"*

**For this descriptive word to mean anything to your "time of need" and to your "prayer life"—it needs to be dripping with doctrine!—it is set in one of the most Doctrinally Deep Books in the N.T.!! ...Hebrews is banking on your understanding Mt. Sinai (The God who is unapproachable, the Tabernacle as His Dwelling Place, and the Priesthood that Mediated God's Presence) ...If We Don't Get These—We Don't Understand the Word "GRACE"!!**

- **"GRACE" is the Basis for Access and for "Confidence"** ...The Argument for Access is that the Basis is the "Person & Work of Christ

*Jn 1:16-17* And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- **...DOCTRINE MATTERS!!** ...the doctrines of Justification, of Atonement, of Imputed Righteousness—are NOT just for dusty theologian's Libraries!!! **...NO it is for you whenever you have need of Praying and Approaching God!!**

## CONCLUSION

...I am a creature and I have a NEED ...there is a Throne of Grace that I am Called to!

*True prayer is an approach of the soul by the Spirit of God to the throne of God. It is not the utterance of words, it is not alone the feeling of desires, but it is the advance of the desires to God, the spiritual approach of our nature towards the Lord our God. True prayer is not a mere mental exercise, nor a vocal performance, but it is deeper far than that—it is spiritual commerce with the Creator of heaven and earth. ...It is a spiritual business from beginning to end; and its aim and object end not with man, but reach to God himself.”* **Charles Spurgeon**, “The Throne of Grace”